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(b) whether they propose to grant the required amount and provide for it in the coming budget?

A.—(a) No. The scheme is not yet ready and some details connected with it are under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

Utilization of the railway cess collected by district boards.

*1130 Q.—Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) the amount of railway cess accumulated by each of the district boards which have no railways of their own;

(b) whether any proposals have been called for by the Government from such boards for the utilization of these amounts; and

(c) whether the boards will be permitted to lay any remunerative and well paying feeder or branch railway lines in their jurisdiction?

A.—(a) A statement[a] is appended.

(b) Yes; district boards were asked in 1927 whether they wished to formulate by means of committees or otherwise proposals for the utilization of railway cess accumulations on the construction of new roads and bridges. Almost all the district boards have stated that either proposals for such utilization have been already sanctioned or that they have already formed or are willing to form committees to formulate proposals.

(c) The normal procedure laid down by the Railway Board in the matter of construction of branch and feeder railway lines is the construction by the Government of India or, at its cost by a company, of a branch line which a district board desires to have constructed and is prepared to guarantee.

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao:—"In view of the table furnished, may I ask whether the Government have any proposal before them that some portion of the railway cess accumulation in the Kurnool district should be diverted to the making of the Srisailam Road and if the Government are negotiating on that matter with the district board?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:—"I am afraid I cannot reply to this question at present because I must get information before I can give any definite reply."

The hon. the President:—"In such a case, the proper reply would be 'Notice'."

Municipal Councils

Nomination of Mr. P. Venugopala Pillai to the Chidambaram Municipal Council.

*1131-A Q.—Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) the reasons for nominating the out-going Chairman, Mr. P. Venugopala Pillai, as a member of the Chidambaram Municipal Council;

[a] Printed as Appendix IX on page 303 infra.

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(*b*) the number of members of his community in the said Council;

(*c*) whether in nominating him, due regard was had to the representations of Muhammadans and other minorities;

(*d*) whether there is any Christian member in the Council;

(*e*) what particular interests were intended to be served by his nomination; and

(*f*) whether Collector of South Arcot recommended his nomination and whether he was consulted in the matter?

A.—(*a*) M.R.Ry. P. Venugopala Pillai was nominated as councillor, Chidambaram Municipal Council, because the Vice-Chairman was deliberately delaying the election for the ward in which M.R.Ry. Venugopala Pillai stood as a candidate in order to prevent the latter, if successful, from standing for re-election as Chairman.

(*b*) Two.

(*c*) & (*e*) As stated in the answer to clause (*a*) the nomination was made for special reasons.

(*d*) No.

(*f*) The Collector was not consulted.

Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—"May I ask the Minister whether at the time he nominated Mr. Venugopala Pillai he was aware that he stood for election in three wards and that he was successively defeated in all of them?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—"As I said in the answer he was successfully kept out of another ward by the friends of my hon. Friend on the other side."

Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—"I want the Minister to state whether he was aware at the time this gentleman was nominated, he had already stood for election in three wards and was defeated?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—"Notice."

Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—"With reference to clause (*f*), may I ask why in this instance the Collector was not consulted?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—"The Collector was not consulted as the nomination had to be made in a hurry owing to the machinations and tactics practised by the vice-chairman of the Chidambaram Municipal Council."

Mr. Abdul Hamid Khan :—"It is stated in the answer to (*c*) and (*e*) that the nomination was made for special reasons. May I know the special reasons for which the Minister decided to make the nomination?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—"Owing to the tactics adopted by the vice-chairman of the Municipal Council."

Mr. Abdul Hamid Khan :—"Was he indispensable?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—"There is no question of dispensability or indispensability."

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar :—"May I know how many members of this gentleman's community were already there as members of the municipal council?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—"I have not yet made a census of them."

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Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar :—" May I know if the auditor has surcharged this Venugopal Pillai when he was chairman, and did not the Minister know it before the nomination was made ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" I am not aware of that, Sir."

Action taken on the allegations against Mr. P. Venugopala Pillai, ex-Chairman of the Chidambaram Municipal Council.

* 1131-B Q.—Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government were aware at the time of nominating Mr. P. Venugopala Pillai, ex-Chairman, a municipal councillor, in November 1928, that the Government ordered in October or November 1925 his prosecution for misappropriation or breach of trust and that the same was withdrawn a year later when he stood as a candidate for election to the Legislative Council ;

(*b*) the nature and particulars of the charges including the amounts involved, in respect of which his prosecution was ordered ;

(*c*) what action was taken by Government on the allegations made against him by certain municipal councillors in May 1927 and referred to in the answer to clause (*b*) of question No. 1200 answered on 5th November 1927 ; and

(*d*) whether the Government have received the explanation called for from him in respect of those allegations and if so, what it is ; and what are the orders of Government thereon ?

A.—(*a*) Yes. As will be seen from the reply to question No. 1131-A, Mr. Venugopala Pillai was recently nominated as a member of the Chidambaram Municipal Council for very special reasons.

(*b*) As the order was subsequently withdrawn no useful purpose will be served by furnishing these particulars.

(*c*) & (*d*) A copy of the Government Order [a] in the case (G.O. No. 3337, L. & M., dated 30th August 1927) is placed on the table.

Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—" With reference to the statement found in appendix that the examiner is requested to investigate the matter and in view of G.O. No. 3337, dated 30th August 1927, may I ask the hon. the Minister to state whether since that date the examiner did investigate the matter and did submit his report to the Government ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" I want notice."

Nomination of Mr. Venugopala Pillai to the Chidambaram Municipal Council.

* 1131-C Q.—Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Mr. Venugopala Pillai, the outgoing Chairman of Chidambaram Municipality, was nominated by the Government as member of Chidambaram Municipal Council ;

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a Printed as Appendix X on pages 303–304 infra.